

COONS, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. ERNST, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. REED, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 379. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 13, 2021, through September 17, 2021, as “National Small Business Week” to celebrate the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in every community in the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 535

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 535, a bill to authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 563

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 563, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit certain financial service providers who deny fair access to financial services from using taxpayer funded discount window lending programs, and for other purposes.

S. 618

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 618, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the deduction for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions.

S. 624

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase certain royalty rates, minimum bid amounts, and rental rates, and for other purposes.

S. 1089

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1089, a bill to direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation or live with limb difference.

S. 1125

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1125, a bill to recommend that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 1385

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1385, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to establish additional requirements for dealers, and for other purposes.

S. 1806

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1806, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend tax incentives for biodiesel and renewable diesel.

S. 1810

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1810, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1813

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1813, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

S. 1841

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1841, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

S. 1872

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1872, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multicancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2005

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2005, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require alternative options for summer food service program delivery.

S. 2047

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to ban the use of intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in cosmetics.

S. 2091

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2091, a bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 2102

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2102, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mammography screening for veterans who served in locations associated with toxic exposure.

S. 2516

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2516, a bill to prohibit the United States International Development Finance Corporation from imposing restrictions on the source of energy used by power-generation projects intended to provide affordable electricity in IDA-eligible countries or IDA-blend countries and to require the Corporation to promote a technology- and fuel-neutral, all-of-the-above energy development strategy for such countries.

S. 2571

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2571, a bill to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of the names of the soldiers who died on Flying Tiger Flight 739 on March 16, 1962.

S. 2615

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2615, a bill protecting the right to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 2721

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2721, a bill to require the Internal Revenue Service to issue a report on the tax gap, to establish a fellowship program within the Internal Revenue Service to recruit mid-career tax professionals to create and participate in an audit task force, and for other purposes.

S. 2727

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2727, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations.

S. 2728

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2728, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the coverage of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments to Tribal Governments.

S. 2760

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2760, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 2780

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2780, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit certain adverse personnel actions taken against members of the Armed Forces based on declining the COVID-19 vaccine.

S. 2785

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2785, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for gender transition in minors.

S. RES. 338

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor

of S. Res. 338, a resolution designating September 2021 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 364

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 364, a resolution supporting the designation of September 17, 2021, as "National Physician Suicide Awareness Day" to raise awareness of, and promote a national discussion about, physician suicide and to reduce the stigma of mental health issues.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2805. A bill to revise laws regarding liability in certain civil actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President. I rise today to introduce the "Small Passenger Vessel Liability Fairness Act of 2021."

This bill would help the families of 34 people who were tragically killed in the *Conception* boat fire off the coast of Santa Cruz Island, California on September 2, 2019, and other victims and their families of similar tragedies. This was the worst maritime disaster in modern California history, and my thoughts continue to be with the victims and their loved ones.

In December of last year, my bill, the Small Passenger Vessel Safety Act, passed as part of the annual National Defense Authorization Act. It goes a long way toward improving passenger vessel safety, but the families of the victims are still unable to seek compensation for the great loss of life they have suffered.

The victims of the *Conception* boat fire were killed when a fire started on-board the boat, while passengers and crewmembers were sleeping below deck after a nighttime swim.

The National Transportation Safety Board's final investigation report for the fire indicates that the victims were awake and trying to escape before they were overcome with smoke. Both exits from the bunkroom were blocked by flames, and coroner reports list smoke inhalation as the cause of death for all passengers.

The same NTSB investigation also determined that the owner and operator of the boat was at fault for failing to provide effective safety oversight. There was no roving watchman as required, the emergency procedures were not properly followed, and the Coast Guard failed to enforce safety requirements.

The families of the victims of the *Conception* boat fire have filed claims

against the owners of the boat for violating federal safety rules. However, due to an outdated maritime liability law, The Limitation of Liability Act of 1851, the owner of the vessel may not be financially liable for any of the losses incurred as a result of the fire, including the enormous loss of life. My bill would address this issue.

How the bill would help:

My bill would amend the outdated law to allow families of victims to bring claims against owners of small passenger vessels found to be liable for maritime accidents such as the *Conception* boat fire, and receive proper compensation for their suffering. It would require small passenger vessels to be governed by liability laws that allow for victims to receive compensation.

I am very appreciative of the NTSB and Board Member Jennifer Homendy and the Coast Guard's responsiveness to several safety recommendations issued by the NTSB, and for their feedback on this bill. I am especially appreciative to the families of the *Conception* boat fire victims for bringing this issue to my attention, and for their tireless efforts to improve maritime safety and ensure just compensation for future victims.

This bill would provide a long overdue update to an outdated law. It is critical that Congress pass it in a timely manner, so as to ensure families of the 34 victims may have their day in court and that future victims of similar tragedies can also seek justice.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 2809. A bill to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached; placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, currently, America's debt is barreling toward \$30 trillion. This \$30 trillion is hard to imagine. So think about it this way: That is more than \$233,000 of debt for every American family.

On July 31, the suspension on the Federal debt limit expired, and now the Democrats in Congress, who continue to pursue a purely partisan, reckless tax-and-spending spree, are pushing this as a decision point with only two options: to vote to suspend the debt limit or increase it with no reforms to control excess Federal spending. They want us to write the government a blank check to spend more money that we don't have. The Republicans have been clear: We will not do it.

Now, my Democratic colleagues will say that the debt ceiling shouldn't be a partisan issue, and I completely agree,